

STATE OF ALABAMA

Information Technology Policy

Policy 1210-01: Hypertext Linking

Many agency web sites provide online hypertext links to non-governmental sites that are not under the control for content by the state. These hypertext links may be created if establishing the external link will be consistent with assisting or furthering the purpose of the agency web site, which is to significantly and diligently promote public service to citizens and businesses. However, these external links may not accurately represent the views and policies of state government. As such, agencies are expected to exercise diligence in providing direct linkages to non-governmental web sites that might conflict with agency or state policies and viewpoints.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this policy is to advise agencies on the use of hypertext links to web sites not under the management and control of the state or governmental organization.

SCOPE:

The scope of this standard applies to all State of Alabama web sites using the primary .gov domain name.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Agency Management, Information Technology Organization

1. Agencies should undertake due diligence in the review of externally linked web site not under the control of a state or governmental entity to ensure there exist no conflicts with the view and policies of the agency or state.
2. A state web site may contain hypertext links to external web sites and pages containing information created and maintained by public and private organizations if it is determined that establishing the external link will be consistent with assisting or furthering the purpose of this state web site, which is to significantly and diligently promote public service to citizens and businesses.
3. Hypertext links may be created for informational purposes where the linked external web site will provide useful and valuable information to visitors to the agency web site, or where the linked external web site is required or authorized by law.
4. The inclusion of a hypertext link to an external web site is not intended to be an endorsement of any product or service offered or referenced on the linked web site, the organizations sponsoring said web site, or any views that might be expressed or referenced in the web site.

ENFORCEMENT:

Authority

*State of Alabama Code, Acts 1973, No. 1299, Section 41-4-220 through 41-4-424.
State of Alabama Code, Acts 1990, No. 90-553, Section 41-4-280 through 41-4-37.*

State of Alabama Code, Acts 2000-715, Section 16-61-D through 16-61-D6.

Reporting**Non-Compliance**

The Chief Information Officer will reserve the right to hold or deny an agency's purchasing requests, contract approvals and personnel actions until such time as an agency complies fully or partially with this policy.

The Chief Information Officer will reserve the right to restrict an agency website outside of the State intranet.

The Chief Information Officer will reserve the right to cancel an agency domain name registration that does not conform to standards.

Signed by Jim Burns, Chief Information Officer

Policy History

Version	Release Date	Comments
Original	09/22/2006	